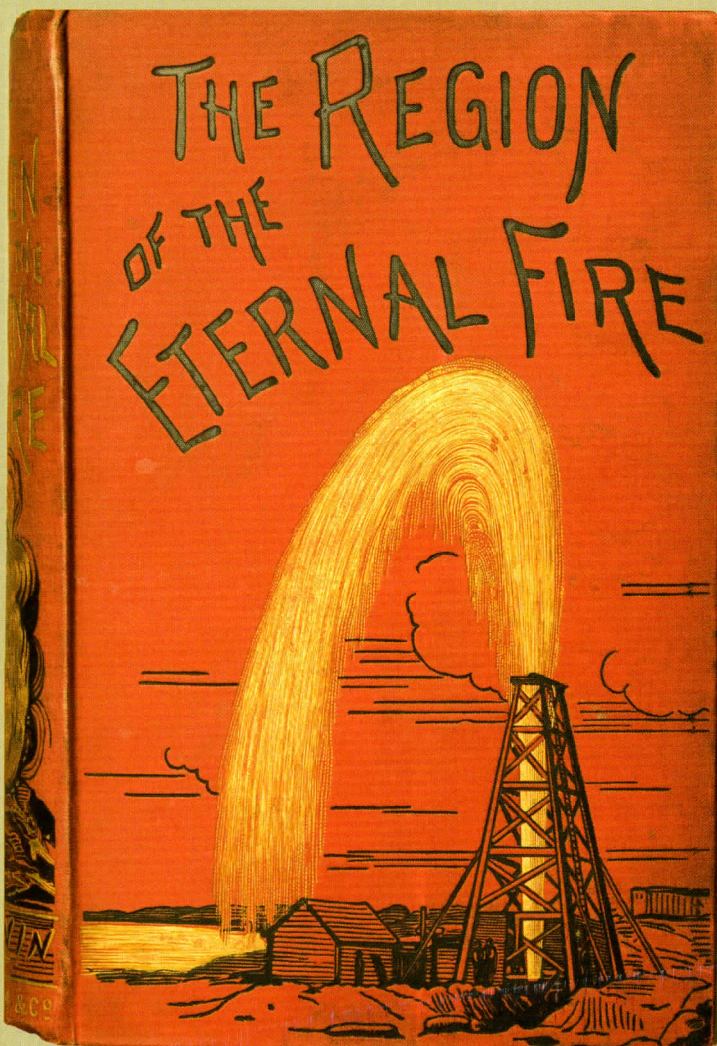


**William A.S. Sarjeant  
Collection**

at the University  
of Alberta Libraries



## The University of Alberta Libraries and the William A.S. Sarjeant Collection

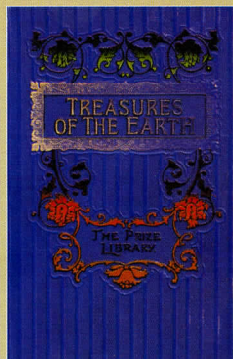
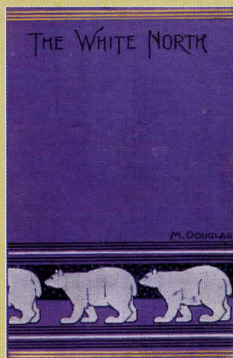
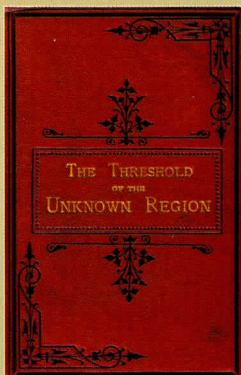
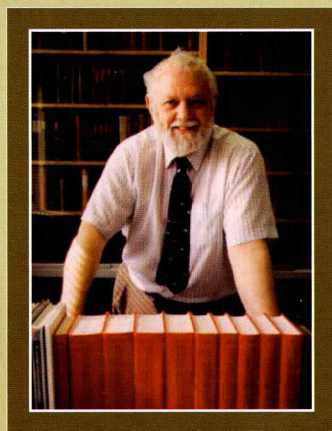
The University of Alberta Libraries, Canada's second largest academic library system, is a major repository of collections that include over 7 million titles, equalling more than 10 million physical items, as well as licensed, online access to hundreds of thousands of electronic books and journals. The generous support of our donors helps the University of Alberta Libraries acquire exceptional collections and resources for our students and faculty, as well as for the wider communities we serve.

William Antony Swithin (Bill) Sarjeant's (1935–2002) donation of his collections, valued at more than \$1 million, to the University of Alberta Libraries commenced in 1996 and concluded with the bequest of the remainder upon his death.

The Sarjeant Collection is made up of several collections, the most significant of which is the Sarjeant History of Science Collection. The others are the Sarjeant Literature Collection, Sarjeant Humour Collection, Sarjeant Travel Collection, and Sarjeant Children's Literature Collection.

## William A.S. Sarjeant, geologist, book collector and bibliographer

Sarjeant was born and educated in Sheffield, England. Following a career as an academic geologist at the University of Nottingham, he immigrated with his family to Saskatoon in 1972, where he served as Professor of Geology at the University of Saskatchewan from 1972 until his death. His research work focused on the study of marine microfossils and the history of the earth sciences; later it expanded to include the study of fossil footprints. A bibliophile and collector by nature, Sarjeant amassed a collection estimated at more than 70,000 books.



## Sarjeant History of Science Collection

### Collection Description

The Sarjeant History of Science Collection of over 7,000 titles is the most important of the Sarjeant collections. Its focus is on the history of geology and related earth sciences. Its scope, however, is wide-ranging, including material on the general history and philosophy of science; cosmography and astronomy; geology and paleontology; biology; evolution and evolutionary controversy; pseudo-geological science; geological events; early scientific organizations; and the publications, biographies, letters and diaries of the great naturalists and pioneer geologists of the 18th and 19th centuries. Books in most European languages are included. Major figures in the history of geology are covered, from William Buckland through to Charles d'Orbigny. The Collection is particularly strong in the amount of material devoted to Alexander von Humboldt, Gideon Mantell, and Benjamin Silliman.

Sarjeant's particular interest in the study of evolution is reflected in the amount of material devoted to evolutionary theory, the science versus religion controversy, and humanity's place in the cosmos. Another large portion is made up of histories of early scientific societies and institutes and scarce 18th and 19th century natural history journals.

The Collection is noted for bringing together resources which provide a context within which the growth of the field of geological science can be traced. It includes the writings of major figures known primarily for work in non-geological fields, who included some geological interest in their lives, such as Goethe and Ruskin.

This History of Science Collection formed the basis of Sarjeant's landmark 10-volume bibliography: *Geologists and the History*

*of Geology: An International Bibliography* (1980-1996).

### Access

The rare items in the Collection are housed within the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, while the remainder is available for loan. Items may be accessed through the online catalogue by entering the name, "Sarjeant History of Science Collection" in the "any field" search box. Items in the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library may be identified by limiting the search by name of library.

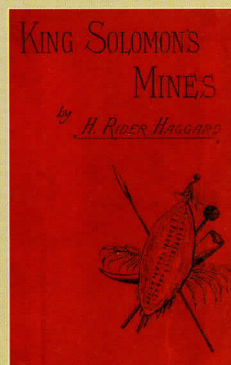
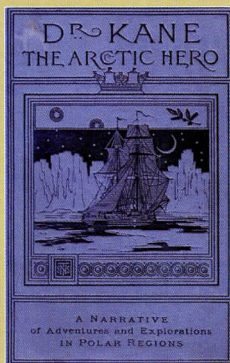
## Sarjeant Literature Collection

### Collection Description

The Sarjeant Literature Collection of approximately 8,000 titles is comprised primarily of "popular literature". Subjects covered include science fiction and fantasy, mystery and detective fiction, and romance and adventure. Books date from the early 19th century to the present, with a large number from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The majority are British, but Canadian, American, and Australian titles are also included.

### Access

Items in the Collection are available for loan and can be accessed through the online catalogue by entering "Sarjeant Literature Collection" in the "any field" search box.



## Sarjeant Humour Collection

### Collection Description

The Sarjeant Humour Collection comprises over 2,000 books from the early 19th century to the early 21st century, and includes materials from the works of Jerome K. Jerome to cartoons from *The New Yorker*. Readers will find enjoyment in everything from the narratives of contemporary humorists like Woody Allen and the classic Charlie Brown comic strips of Charles Schultz to the stories of P.G. Wodehouse.

### Access

Most of the collection is available for loan and can be accessed through the online catalogue by entering "Sarjeant Humour Collection" in the "any field" search box.

## Sarjeant Travel Literature Collection

### Collection Description

The remarkably rich Sarjeant Travel Literature Collection is made up of essays, memoirs, guidebooks, diaries, biographies, reminiscences, and other works relating to the history and exploration of foreign lands. What makes the collection so captivating is the range of detailed accounts from sailors, anthropologists, scholars, doctors, archaeologists, mountain climbers, and many others.

### Access

Items in the collection are available for loan and can be accessed through the online catalogue by entering "Sarjeant Travel Literature Collection" in the "any field" search box.

## Sarjeant Children's Literature Collection

### Collection Description

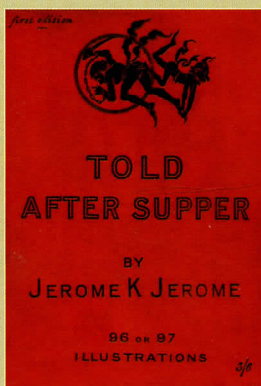
The Sarjeant Children's Literature Collection includes approximately 350 books for all levels of readership. Among some of the oldest titles are Sir Walter Scott's *The Fair Maid of Perth, or, Saint Valentine's Day* and Charles Kingsley's *The Water Babies*, published in the 19th century. Contemporary titles include a wide range of picture books and young adult novels in such genres as fantasy, mystery, and mythology.

### Access

Most of the collection is available for loan and can be accessed through the online catalogue by entering "Sarjeant Children's Literature" in the "any field" search box.

## Further Reading

Spalding, David A.E. 1997. "Collectors Corner. Discovering the Earth." *Biblio 2* (11): 52-55.



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